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Bangalore Mirror

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3,000 children went missing from Karnataka as per NCRB 2022 report, of whom very few were found. Now district-level task force hopes to change the way things stand

LOST & FOUND

Activists want teams to coordinate, protect the vulnerable

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Child rights activists are happy with the Karnataka government's initiative to form a task force to trace missing and abducted children, and live with the hope that the teams will ensure that the vulnerable are protected.

The issue is of pressing importance as statistics are particularly alarming: Over 3,000 children went missing in the state in 2022, of which several remain untraced.

The state government has constituted special task forces at the district level to not only trace missing and abducted children but also to prevent such incidents.

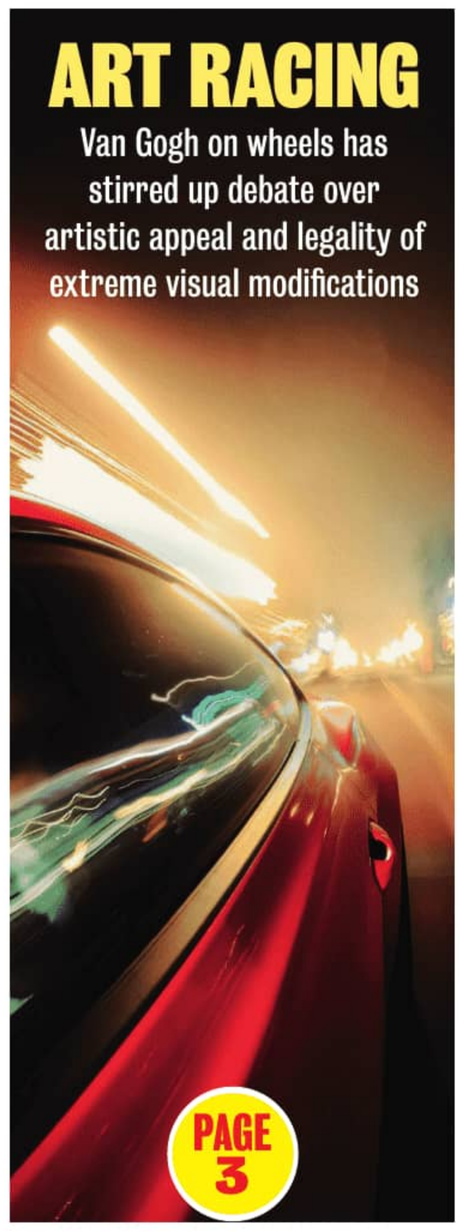
It is said the decision to form the STFs at the district level was taken as per the directive from the Karnataka Legislative Committee on Women and Child Development.

The committee is said to have raised the issue of missing children during a meeting held on June 20. The circular issued by the Secretary, Women and Child Development on July 3 stated that many cases of children abducted or missing have been reported in the state and such cases are the violation of children's rights.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

ART RACING

Van Gogh on wheels has stirred up debate over artistic appeal and legality of extreme visual modifications



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THINGS TO DO

01 Laugh out loud

Biswa Kalyan Rath is bringing his incisive humour paired with a compelling stage presence, in a show that promises a laughter-fuelled joyride through relatable observations. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: July 12, 8 pm**

02 Treasure trove

Karnataka Numismatic Society is presenting 'NanyaDarshini 2025', an exhibition showcasing rare and antique coins, currency notes, stamps, medals, and related collectibles. **Where: Shikshaka Sadana, Nagarathpete; When: July 11 to 13**

03 Scientific quest

Nexus Whitefield Mall is presenting 'Science of Wizards', an experiential fest that blends the enchantment of wizardry with the wonders of science through hands-on experiments, interactive zones, and magical demonstrations, making learning both fun and unforgettable. **Where: Nexus Whitefield Mall; When: July 12 and 13, 11 am to 8 pm**

04 Groove along

Mika Singh, known for his countless iconic hit songs, is set to take the stage and mesmerise the audience with his lively music. **Where: ZOZO The Club, Sanjay Nagar; When: July 19, 7 pm**

05 Imagination unleashed

Ranga Shankara is hosting the 15th edition of 'AHA! Theatre for Children Festival', featuring plays from across India, based on themes of self-discovery, courage, and imagination. Each play invites children to question, explore, and connect. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: July 15 to 19, 7.30 pm**

Lalbagh to bloom in honour of bravehearts

To prepare for flower show, information on Rani Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna is being collected through locals and experts, says Joint Director of State Horticulture Department

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The iconic Lalbagh Botanical Garden is gearing up for its much-awaited Independence Day flower show, scheduled for the first week of August. This year's central theme will bring to life the valour and legacy of Kittur Rani Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna, two legendary freedom fighters from Karnataka, through vibrant floral installations.

A tribute to bravehearts

The Horticulture Department has received official approval from the government to recreate scenes of battle and resistance featuring Rani Chennamma and Rayanna. The highlight will be a grand depiction of Kittur Rani Chennamma riding a horse with a sword in hand, symbolising her fight against British colonial forces. A floral replica of the Kittur Fort will also be part of the central installation.

Message of empowerment

The theme aims to send a strong message about women's strength, courage, and resilience in the face of injustice. With increasing incidents of violence and oppression against women, the floral display seeks to inspire society to fight back with bravery and wisdom, much like Rani Chennamma did in her time.

Extensive preparation involved

Preparation for the event began as early as April. Hundreds of horticulture staff have been involved in sowing ornamental flower seeds, removing old soil, adding fresh compost, planting saplings, trimming decorative plants, laying lawns, and setting up floral beds. Entry points and key areas of the garden are being spruced up to enhance the visual appeal for the expected flood of visitors.

Research for authenticity

"We have already visited Kittur and Sangolli, the birthplaces of Rani Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna. We studied their memorial sites and collected valuable information from local authorities," said Dr M Jagadeesh, Joint Director of the State Horticulture Department, adding that subject experts have also been consulted and further meetings are planned to finalise the details of the installations.

Iconic displays at Glass House

As always, the Glass House will serve as the centrepiece of the flower show. This year, it will host intricate floral models of Rani Chennamma, Sangolli Rayanna, and the Kittur Fort, surrounded by colourful blooms, designed to captivate visitors. The budget and expenditure details for the show are still under discussion, according to Shamla Itball, Secretary, Horticulture Department.

Every year, Lalbagh's Independence Day flower show witnesses large number of visitors who come to behold the extravagant installations (File Photo)

Rare and exotic blooms

Visitors can expect a spectacular visual treat, with flowers like roses, gerberas, orchids, impatiens from Nandi Hills, red hot pokers, asiatic lilies, agapanthus, cyclamen, calla lilies, and other flowers forming the tapestry of this grand event. Dozens of indigenous and international flower varieties, including bougainvillea plants in pots, will also be showcased.

The highlight will be a grand depiction of Kittur Rani Chennamma riding a horse with a sword in hand, symbolising her fight against British colonial forces, along with a floral replica of the Kittur Fort

Side attractions and competitions

The show will also feature Ikebana arrangements, vegetable carving exhibitions, gardening competitions, and a wide range of floral art displays, making it a vibrant and educational experience for all age groups.

Teachers' union urges CM for uniform education system

To improve the quality of education in government schools, teachers' union representatives have appealed to the government to implement a skill-based learning system starting from class 1, and to resolve existing issues with the curriculum. During a meeting at Vidhana Soudha, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, along with education officials and teachers' union members, discussed key demands including the scrapping of the current 'Nali-Kali' method and enforcement of a uniform education system, addressing staffing and recruitment policies, improving school sanitation through dedicated agencies, and appointing clerical staff at the panchayat level for schools. The teachers also raised concerns about being assigned non-teaching duties—like voter list revisions—during school hours, which hampers classroom activities. They urged the government to relieve teachers from such tasks by taking up the matter in the cabinet. **— BMB**

Keep Kannada at 125 marks, says writer Bargur Ramachandrappa

Writer and scholar Bargur Ramachandrappa has written to Minister for School Education and Literacy, Madhu Bangarappa, urging the government to withdraw its decision to reduce marks for first languages—including Kannada—from 125 to 100. He expressed shock over the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board's proposal to cap first language marks at 100, calling it a move that undermines the importance of mother tongues.

Ramachandrappa reminded the minister that the allocation of 125 marks for Kannada was a direct outcome of the historic Gokak movement, led by Dr Rajkumar, which pressured the then Gundu Rao government to elevate Kannada's status in education. Initially, a uniform 100-mark formula was proposed for all three languages, but following strong opposition and deliberations, 125 marks were allotted for first languages like Kannada. He questioned the rationale behind slashing 25 marks now and warned that such a move would devalue the mother tongue. In his letter, he strongly urged the government to immediately revoke the decision. **— BMB**

RCB overtakes CSK to be the most valuable IPL team

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), the reigning champions, have surpassed five-time winners Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to become the most valuable franchise in the league. RCB now commands a brand value of USD 269 million (approximately Rs 2,300 crore), followed by Mumbai Indians at Rs 2,073 crore and CSK at Rs 2,013 crore. According to a new report by global investment bank Houlihan Lokey, the Indian Premier League (IPL), now in its 18th season, has seen its overall brand valuation soar to a staggering USD 18.5 billion (approximately Rs 1.58 lakh crore), marking a 12.9% rise compared to the previous year. The IPL continues to enhance its brand value significantly through lucrative sponsorship deals, cementing its status as one of the wealthiest sports leagues globally.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (at Rs 2,300 crore) emerged as the most valuable IPL team in terms of brand valuation, surpassing Mumbai Indians (Rs 2,073 crore) and Chennai Super Kings (Rs 2,013 crore). Kolkata Knight Riders follow closely at Rs 1,944 crore, while Sunrisers Hyderabad (Rs 1,319 crore), Delhi Capitals (Rs 1,302 crore), Rajasthan Royals (Rs 1,250 crore), Gujarat Titans (Rs 1,216 crore), Punjab Kings (Rs 1,207 crore), and Lucknow Super Giants (Rs 1,045 crore) round out the list. **— BMB**

City crime-fighting grid grows with new divisions

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The Karnataka government on Tuesday approved the creation of three new law and order divisions under the Bengaluru City Police. With this, the number of law-and-order divisions in the city increases from eight to eleven, a step aimed at addressing the rising population, urban sprawl, and increasing crime rates.

The three newly sanctioned divisions are North West, South West, and Electronic City, each to be headed by a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP).

The proposal, which was first submitted by the Director General and Inspector General of Police, cited the city's exponential growth, especially in peripheral areas, as the key reason for the expansion. The move comes at an estimated annual cost of 7.8 crore to the state exchequer.

According to the government order, each new division will be staffed with one Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police (ASI), five Head Constables, six police constables, and 11 other support staff, in addition to the DCP. These additions are expected to significantly reduce the pressure on the existing divisional officers and ensure quicker response to crimes and emergencies.

North West Division

The newly formed North West Division will comprise the Peenya Sub-Division, headed by an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), and include six police stations, including Peenya, Rajagopal Nagar, Bagalagunte, Byadarahalli, Soladevanahalli, and Gangammanagudi. This division will help improve policing in the industrial and densely populated north-western part of the city.

South West Division

The South West Division will consist of two subdivisions, Kengeri and Subramanyapura, each led by an ACP. It will cover eight police stations, including Kengeri, Jnanabharati, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Kumbalgodu,

Thalaghattapura, Subramanyapura, Kumaraswamy Layout, and Konanakunte. The division will serve rapidly developing residential and commercial localities along the Mysuru-Bengaluru corridor.

Electronic City Division

With the IT industry expanding at an unprecedented rate, the Electronic City Division will cater to the tech corridor in the southern part of the city. The division will have Electronic City as its sole sub-division and include six police stations, including Electronic City, Hulimavu, Beguru, Parappana Agrahara, Bandepalya, and Hebbagodi. The move is expected to help manage law and order in one of the city's most dynamic and densely populated IT hubs.

Structural changes and rationalisation

The order also mentions rationalisation of police station jurisdictions, with some police stations being relocated from their current divisions to the newly formed ones. Additionally, a few structural changes have been made to the subdivisions under existing divisions to ensure administrative efficiency.

At present, Bengaluru has eight law and order divisions, including Central, West, East, South, Southeast, North, Northeast, and Whitefield, along with four traffic divisions. The addition of these three new law and order divisions is in line with Section 461 of the 2025-26 Budget, which had proposed strengthening the city's policing structure by expanding the number of divisions to 11.

Officials have emphasised that this reorganisation will help ensure better ground-level policing, quicker response time, and improved handling of crime, cyber fraud, and violence-related cases across the city.

The expansion is also viewed as a much-needed response to Bengaluru's growing demand for public safety infrastructure as it continues to attract population and investments from across the country.

Art on wheels has internet in spin

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A car adorned with Vincent van Gogh's iconic Starry Night painting has become the unexpected epicentre of a heated online debate after images of the uniquely painted vehicle went viral on social media. While many netizens praised the vehicle's artistic appeal, others raised concerns about the legality of such visual modifications, questioning whether such elaborate paint jobs comply with traffic regulations.

The car, which was spotted in Indiranagar, has gone viral after an X user shared it with the caption, "Spotted this beauty in Indiranagar last evening! Bengaluru never fails to surprise." The car features a vivid recreation of Van Gogh's swirling night sky, complete with bold strokes of blues and yellows. While some art and car enthusiasts lauded the creative design for turning a mundane vehicle into a mobile canvas, critics quickly took to platforms like X (formerly Twitter) to tag city traffic police accounts.

"Is it valid to have such a painting on a car? Does it not violate RTO rules?" asked one user, prompting a flurry of responses and speculation. And many users are questioning whether it's legal.

Does it violate RTO norms?

This incident has reignited a broader conversation about the balance between self-expression and compliance with transport norms. RTO officials say, "Yes, it is generally allowed to modify your car's appearance with paint jobs as long as you adhere to certain regulations and obtain necessary approvals."

According to vehicle regulations under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), any alteration that changes the vehicle's structural or colour specifics from what is listed on its Registration Certificate (RC) may require prior approval from the Regional Transport Office (RTO). "While basic aesthetic changes like decals or wraps, stickers are common, and since it is removable, no permission is needed, but if they are changing the paint colour of the car, they need to apply form 26," said RTO officials.

How did public react?

Reactions on X were mixed. While some users appreciated the artistic touch, others found it exaggerated or unappealing. One user remarked, "Starry Night is so overrated," while another noted, "Five or six people have posted this on all my socials. I saw this car near Corner House a few days ago." In just 48 hours, the post had racked up over 225.1K views.

One user even tagged the Bengaluru Traffic Police, asking, "@blrcitytraffic is it valid to have such a painting?"

What is Starry night?

Vincent van Gogh's The Starry Night, painted in 1889 during his stay at the Saint-Paul-de-Mausole asylum in Saint-Rémy, France, is a profoundly personal and symbolic work.

Though inspired by the view from his window, the painting is not a direct representation of the landscape. Instead, it captures the emotional intensity of Van Gogh's inner world during a time of mental and emotional struggle.

The dramatic sky, swirling brushstrokes, and vivid colours transcend realism, offering a glimpse into the artist's mood and his emotions, expressive of the inner world during a period of mental and emotional turmoil.

Heritage or healthcare? Bommanahalli's big dilemma

Locals oppose BBMP's plan to convert Raitha Sipayi Hall into a vet clinic, highlighting its long-standing use for cultural events, health camps and educational programmes

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Once a neglected park and a hangout for drunkards and anti-social elements—due to its location next to a burial ground near Royal Shelter Layout in Bommanahalli—the area saw a transformation eight years ago when then Deputy Mayor Ram Mohan Raju, acting on residents' requests, constructed a community hall.

For years, residents have been using the Raitha Sipayi Community Hall. It has evolved into a vibrant hub for cultural events, festivals, social gatherings, educational programmes, health and blood donation camps, summer activities for children, and various initiatives by non-profit organisations and neighbourhood associations, fostering strong community engagement.

Now, the residents of Royal Shelter Layout are worried about losing the community for the proposed veterinary clinic by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The residents said the community hall was constructed on a civic amenity site at the Royal Shelter Layout which is a private layout. "I want the BBMP authorities to find a suitable place at another location for opening a veterinary clinic. We have been using the community hall for cultural programmes. Many children attend programmes during the weekends," said Sampath Krishnabhat, a resident.

Above: Residents of Royal Shelter Layout using the community hall for cultural programmes; Below: Raitha Sipayi community centre

Expressing concern over the BBMP's decision to take over the community hall for a veterinary clinic, resident Shalini S M said that nearly 100 children—from Royal Shelter Layout, SBI Colony, and Manjunatha Layout—attend cultural programmes there every weekend. "We organise the Bala Bharati programme to instill Indian cultural values in children. I was shocked when a BBMP official asked me to hand over the keys to the community centre," she said.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP authorities for being rude with the people maintaining the community centre, former deputy mayor Ram Mohan Raju said the land does not belong to the BBMP. "I am at a loss to understand the logic behind the BBMP authorities deciding to use the community hall for a veterinary clinic or hospital. The BBMP Zonal Commissioner should have taken residents into confidence before conducting the survey or inspecting the community centre. I oppose converting the community centre into a veterinary hospital," said Ram Mohan Raju.

> **"I am at a loss to understand the logic behind the BBMP deciding to use the community hall for a veterinary clinic or hospital** – Ram Mohan Raju, Former Deputy Mayor of Bengaluru

Meanwhile, Bommanahalli Zonal Commissioner Ramya S confirmed that the BBMP Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry) had inspected the community centre. "We found the centre to be an ideal location for an upgraded veterinary clinic, as it has two entrances and there's no such facility in Bommanahalli. However, some residents later informed me that the hall is being used for cultural activities. I have advised them to submit supporting documents. A final decision on whether to open a veterinary clinic at the community centre is yet to be taken," the Zonal Commissioner said.

Idle bus depot may heal thousands

There is growing demand to convert the long-defunct Peenya Basaveshwara Bus Terminal—unused for over a decade—into a multi-speciality ESI hospital. Workers and industrialists in the Peenya industrial area have raised concerns, citing the lack of advanced healthcare facilities for employees covered under the ESI scheme. At present, the only available ESI Model Hospital in Yeshwanthpur has just 150 beds and is limited to providing secondary care. For critical scans, diagnostics, and specialised treatment, patients are forced to travel to Rajajinagar. Given this gap in accessible medical care, stakeholders are urging the government to repurpose the idle terminal into a modern ESI hospital with full-fledged multi-speciality services.

The demand gains urgency when one considers the numbers: over 13,000 micro, small, and medium industries in the region contribute nearly ₹8,000 crore annually to the government. Of the 15 lakh workers in the area, more than 6 lakh are registered under the ESI scheme. In 2023–24 alone, ESI contributions from the region crossed ₹350 crore. Yet, workers and industry leaders argue that the Employees' State Insurance Corporation is failing to provide quality healthcare. They cite bed shortages, lack of medicines, and absence of modern diagnostic and treatment facilities—forcing patients to travel long distances for even basic care. The defunct Peenya Basaveshwara Bus Terminal, built at a cost of ₹44 crore and inaugurated in 2014 to serve over 20 districts, remains grossly underutilised. With its intact infrastructure—platforms, hostels, shops, lifts, Wi-Fi, and sanitation—stakeholders propose transforming it into a multi-speciality ESI hospital, potentially in collaboration with institutions like Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and NIMHANS.

— BMB

Labour strike sees low impact in state

Despite a nationwide strike called by the Joint Platform of Trade Unions, normal life in Karnataka remained largely unaffected on Wednesday. Public transport services, including BMTC and KSRTC buses, operated without disruption. Autos and app-based cabs were available as usual, and schools and colleges remained open, as the state government had not declared a holiday.

The 24-hour strike was supported by 10 central trade unions and various sectoral federations, opposing the Centre's alleged "anti-labour" policies and proposed labour law amendments, including longer working hours. Protests were held across the state, including demonstrations at Freedom Park in Bengaluru. Similar rallies were seen in Hubballi, Mysuru, and Bidar. Protesters raised slogans against privatisation, demanding the rollback of recent labour reforms. To prevent disruption to traffic movement in central Bengaluru, traffic police confirmed that the service road near Freedom Park was temporarily closed. This was part of precautionary measures to maintain smooth traffic flow in the area. Despite visible protests, essential services and daily routines across the state continued without major interruption. **— BMB**

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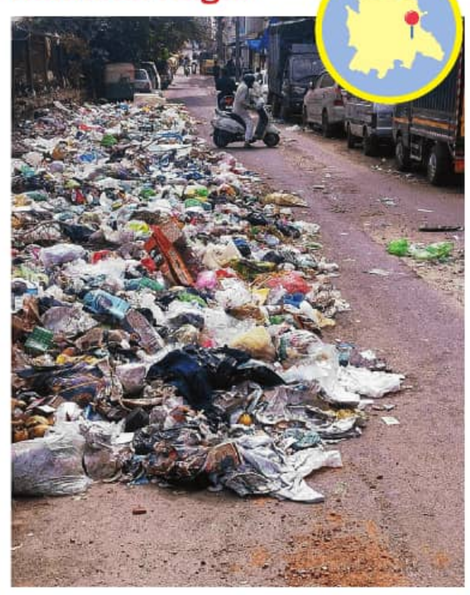
Traffic blockade

RT Nagar

Vehicles parked along a road in RT Nagar are creating major obstructions, making it difficult for school buses to stop safely. Residents are urging the RT Nagar Traffic Police to act immediately.

Waste zone

Ramaiah Nagar



Residents of an apartment on 2nd Cross, Ramaiah Nagar near BWSSB Pipeline Road in Ilyasnagar, are troubled by foul-smelling garbage that has become a daily nuisance.

Street takeover

Kalkere Road

The stretch from a colony to Ramamurthy Nagar Church along Kalkere Road is fully occupied by vegetable vendors, forcing pedestrians onto the road. Locals are questioning BBMP's continued inaction.

BBMP digs its way out of chokehold

Despite repeated orders, civic agency concretes tree bases, endangering their survival; officials later remove concrete and promise corrective steps

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KAUSHIK JN

BBMP engineer supervising workers removing concrete around trees on Tuesday

Yet again, BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) finds itself undoing its actions, carrying out work, recognising the misstep, and moving to correct it. This time, it's in Lingarajapuram, where tree trunks were sealed in concrete, threatening their survival.

Hardly 20 days ago, BBMP Special Commissioner of Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Preeti Gehlot ordered the removal of concrete placed around trees planted on the roads in the BBMP limits. Prior to this, State Forest, Ecology, and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre ordered the removal of concrete around trees across the state.

Despite clear instructions from higher authorities to remove concrete around trees, the practice continues in several parts of the city. If this reflects the level of awareness among officials in Bengaluru, it raises concerns about how the guidelines are being followed by contractors and officials in other towns and cities across the state.

The BBMP Projects Department is currently developing the footpath along Lingarajapuram Main Road, also known as 80 Ft Road. However, the ongoing work appears to have lacked close supervision, as concrete has been placed around the bases of trees without leaving space for rainwater percolation, a critical requirement for the trees' health.

Bangalore Mirror published a story, "They paved paradise," on April 17, narrating how trees, carefully nurtured by citizens, were smothered in concrete on the footpath along the service road between KR Puram Railway Station and the ITI Limited.

> **"What's more alarming is contradiction within same civic body, where one dept advocates freeing tree roots while other proceeds to encase them** –Vinod J, NBF

Later, the BM published another story, "BBMP earns praise for protecting trees," on April 21, narrating how volunteers of KR Puram Rising and environmentalists have lauded the BBMP Forest Department and the engineering department for ensuring adequate space around trees, allowing for percolation of rainwater.

Meanwhile, environmentalists and social activists are up in arms against the BBMP engineers and the contractor responsible for concretising trees at Lingarajapuram. "It seems the BBMP has not learnt from earlier mistakes that many trees have become weak due to the concreting work around them. There was an assurance that all trees having concrete around them will be removed,'' said Selwyn Mascarenhas, a social activist.

"Despite repeated appeals and public outcry to protect Bengaluru's trees, we continue to witness the harmful practice of concreting around them, slowly choking them to death. What's more alarming is the contradiction within the same civic body, where one department advocates freeing tree roots while another proceeds to encase them in concrete. This clear lack of coordination highlights an urgent need for internal communication before executing any project. It's not just about saving trees, it's about preventing irreversible damage and avoiding the cost of undoing avoidable mistakes,'' said Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation.

Stating that trees should not be concretised, Dattatreya T Devare, an environmentalist, said, "There should be a very clear clause in the agreement between road contractors and BBMP that the stipulated space must be kept at the base of all trees".

Vijay Nishant, an environmentalist, said that there is a government order to leave the space around the trees for the percolation of rainwater. "It seems the people engaged in the development of the footpath have no sense,'' said Vijay Nishant.

Biju Cherayath, an artist and naturalist, said, "There are several cases of trees getting uprooted and falling on cars and buildings. This can be stopped if the basic needs of trees are met."

Meanwhile, BBMP Executive Engineer (Projects) said, "I am taking measures to remove the concrete around the trees.''

Concrete removed

BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer Prakash N said that he ensured the removal of concrete on Tuesday night. "As soon as I received the information, I rushed to the spot and made the workers remove the concrete. I will ensure no concretisation of trees in future,'' he said.

Man murders wife, arrested

A 29-year-old woman was murdered by her husband in Bommanahalli after an argument escalated over a shopping trip. The accused, Harish, has been arrested by the Bommanahalli police. An argument broke out on Wednesday after Padmaja went shopping without informing Harish. In a fit of rage, he allegedly strangled her, pushed her to the ground, and killed her by stepping on her neck. Despite Harish rushing Padmaja to the hospital, doctors declared her dead. –BMB

Alia Bhatt's ex-assistant arrested for fraud

Former personal assistant to Bollywood actor Alia Bhatt, Vedika Prakash Shetty, was arrested in Bengaluru on Tuesday for allegedly defrauding the actor of 76.9 lakh. Mumbai Police apprehended Shetty and secured a five-day transit remand to bring her back to Mumbai for further investigation. The alleged scam unfolded over a two-year period, between May 2022 and August 2024. According to the Juhu police, the fraud came to light earlier this year when Bhatt's mother, actor and filmmaker Soni Razdan, also director of Eternal Sunshine Productions, filed an official complaint.

According to police, investigations revealed that Shetty, who worked with Bhatt from 2021 to 2024, fabricated invoices under the pretext of expenses related to the actor's travel, events, and professional engagements. She is accused of misleading Bhatt into signing these forged bills and then diverting the money through a close associate, who transferred the funds back to her.

Shetty has been booked under various sections, including those related to cheating and criminal breach of trust. She was produced before a Mumbai court on Tuesday and remanded to police custody till Thursday. –BMB

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Eco-alternatives may backfire without effective management

Experts warn Bengaluru's compostable plastic shift risks worsening pollution unless reuse, segregation, and scientific disposal strategies are urgently prioritised

Garima Prasher
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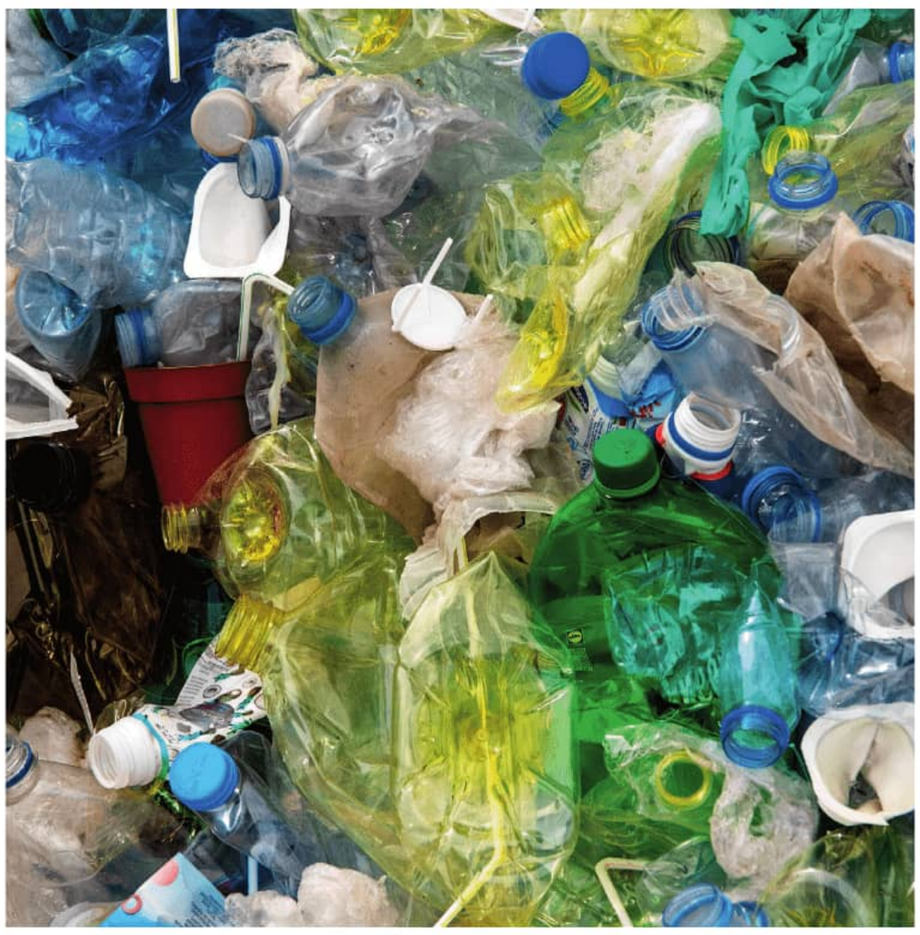
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has compiled a list of eco-alternatives to ban single-use plastic (SUP) items that consumers can now use. The list features products made of paper, including cellulose paper, paper plates, and paper cups, as well as items made from areca leaves and agro-crop residue such as compostable carry bags, roll carry bags, garbage bags, and packaging materials.

A total of 12 sustainable items are currently being manufactured in Bengaluru, with the vendors and manufacturers approved by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and CPCB.

While the initiative aims to help consumers shift to more eco-friendly choices, solid waste management experts in the city have flagged concerns about the effectiveness and long-term impact of these alternatives. According to them, the lack of clear regulations and monitoring mechanisms could lead to a situation where these alternatives become as harmful if not more than the SUP items they are meant to replace.

"These are industrial-grade compostable plastic materials. Without a streamlined mechanism for aggregation, segregation, and transportation, these materials are likely to end up in landfills just like plastic," said V Ramprasad, a Bengaluru-based solid waste management expert. "There is no robust system to verify whether these CPCB-approved products are being sold as certified or have been altered. This is a knee-jerk reaction. What we really need are long-term, scientific strategies to end our dependence on disposable items."



Experts warn compostable plastics may end up in landfills without proper disposal systems and enforcement in place

Although the CPCB's list is viewed as a valuable resource especially for institutions and consumers looking to source compliant alternatives, activists say it's important to critically assess what is being promoted. One of the major points of contention is the inclusion of paper-based products.

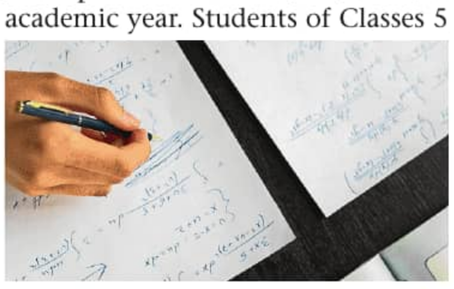
A Life Cycle Analysis conducted by the CPCB in 2018 found that paper bags have two to three times more global warming potential compared to plastic bags. Experts argue that while compostable alternatives are a step forward, they are far from perfect. "These items have negligible reuse or recycling value, especially once they are soiled," said Archana Tripathi of Saahas, an organisation working in waste management. "Most of these compostable items can only break down in industrial composting facilities, not in home compost bins. Worse, they often look like regular plastic and confuse consumers, leading to improper disposal."

> **"In absence of proper policies, these eco-alternatives may prove more dangerous than single-use plastic, ultimately reaching landfills**
> – V Ramprasad, Solid waste management expert

Tripathi also pointed out that when these eco-products mix with recyclable dry waste, they can contaminate the stream, reducing the quality of recovered materials. "The key is not just switching from one single-use item to another. We must focus on reducing waste at the source by choosing reusable alternatives. Their repeated use justifies the environmental cost of producing them," she said. Nalini Shekar, co-founder of Hasiru Dala, echoed this sentiment. "This is a starting point, not the solution. We need to gradually move towards systems that normalise the use of durable, reusable products. It's time to go beyond short-term fixes and create real behavioural and policy shifts."

Centre tightens KV exam rules

The Central Government has amended the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2010, making it mandatory for students of Classes 5 and 8 in Kendriya Vidyalayas to pass their annual exams to be promoted. The Union Education Ministry notified the change on December 16, 2024, and it will be implemented from the 2025–26 academic year. Students of Classes 5



and 8 appearing for exams in March 2025 will be the first to be assessed under the revised rule. Currently, 11,000 students are enrolled in these classes across 53 Kendriya Vidyalayas in Karnataka. Those who fail will be given a re-examination opportunity within two months. If students fail again, they will be required to repeat the class. To support this transition, parents will receive guidance, and schools will provide additional academic help to students struggling to meet the new standards. — BMB

KHB plans duplex township near E-city

The Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) has launched a demand survey for a new project to build modern duplex homes of various categories in Suryanagar, located near Electronic City and Jigani Industrial Area. Following an encouraging response to its earlier apartment project comprising 50 flats in Phase 1 of Suryanagar, KHB is now planning the 'Surya Nisarga Valley' township in Phase 4. The proposed project will feature spacious 3 BHK, 3.5 BHK, and 4 BHK duplex homes with contemporary amenities. Interested buyers have been invited to register under the demand survey by paying an initial deposit to express their interest. — BMB

HC halts Ambedkar portrait suspension

The Karnataka High Court has halted the suspension of KJ Jalajakshi, who serves as Deputy Secretary of the State Legislative Council. The suspension, issued in July, was linked to an alleged oversight during a Constitution Day event on November 26, 2024, where Dr BR Ambedkar's portrait was reportedly not displayed during a Preamble-reading session at the Legislative Council Secretariat.

Justice HT Narendra Prasad granted interim relief to Jalajakshi, noting that the disciplinary action came after an "inordinate delay" of over seven months. "In view of the above, stay of impugned order dated 04.07.2025 vide Annexure-A, till next date of hearing," the court stated. However, it clarified that this interim stay would not prevent the competent authority from proceeding with a departmental inquiry as per law. At the hearing on July 8, Jalajakshi's counsel argued that she had no role in organising or supervising the November 26 event. Her response to the official notice also pointed out that the suspension order failed to assign any specific responsibilities to her regarding the function. — BMB

Gram panchayats barred from KIADB tax

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that gram panchayats lack legal authority to impose or gather taxes from industries situated within KIADB-notified industrial zones under the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Act of 1966. Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum delivered the verdict while allowing petitions filed by Kalpatharu Breweries and Distilleries Pvt. Ltd. and other industrial units in the Sompura industrial area near Bengaluru. These companies had challenged property tax demands issued by the Sompura Grama Panchayat.

The court held that only the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) has the statutory authority to regulate development activities and collect taxes within notified industrial zones. It clarified that gram panchayats cannot exercise such powers unless the government issues a specific notification under Section 37 of the KIAD Act, formally transferring control. The court also observed that Section 47 of the Act overrides conflicting laws and bars any implied jurisdiction by local bodies, rendering the panchayat's tax notices invalid. — BMB

IN HIGH COURT

Court strikes tenant's defence default

The Karnataka High Court quashed a trial court order, emphasising that judicial discretion cannot favour parties who defy court orders. The court stated, "No party has a right to be heard on merits, when interim orders are violated with impunity."

Justice M Nagaprasanna allowed the application filed by property owner Venugopal Krishnamurthy, noting that the tenant had failed to pay rent for five years despite repeated court directions. The dispute involved M Tejaswini, who ran 'Oranges Play Home and Vidyadarpan Tutorials' in the rented premises. Eviction proceedings were initiated following defaults in rent. Although a trial court in July 2023 directed monthly payments of ₹82,431, the tenant neither complied nor cleared arrears. Her plea for rent waiver during COVID-19 and request for two years to settle dues was rejected. The court found that the school's licence had expired and called her conditional offer to vacate the property "audacious." It allowed the application under Order VI Rule 16 CPC, striking off her defence. — BMB

HC asks Prajwal to go to Sessions Court

The High Court has directed former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna to seek regular bail from the Sessions Court in the ongoing rape and sexual assault case. Justice SR Krishna Kumar, after several weeks of hearings, stated that Revanna may return to the High Court only after exhausting remedies in the trial court. The judge instructed that if Revanna files a bail plea before the Sessions Court, it must be decided within 10 days.

Senior Advocate Prabhuling Navadgi, representing Revanna, argued that repeated bail pleas in the Sessions Court were not mandatory, citing Supreme Court judgments. However, ASPP Jagadeesha referenced a High Court circular mandating roster judges to hear such applications.

This is Revanna's second attempt at securing regular bail from the High Court, the first having been denied in October 2023 due to serious charges and fears of witness tampering. The current plea cited a change in circumstances, including delay in trial proceedings and the complainant filing the case years after the alleged incident. — BMB

TIME TO LOG OUT

As Infosys sends out alerts to employees to not stretch beyond 9 hours at work, some argue e-mails not enough

Sources said the company was tracking working hours to prevent burn-out

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

IN FOCUS WORK LIFE

As the national debate intensifies over work hours—sparked by prominent voices in the IT industry advocating for extended shifts—Infosys has taken a contrasting approach by cautioning employees who clock in excessive work time.

In an internal development, Infosys has begun monitoring employee working hours closely and is now sending formal advisory emails to those exceeding the company's standard daily threshold. One such email, accessed by Bangalore Mirror, was issued to an employee who logged more than 98 hours over eight days—an average of over 12 hours per day.

The email read: "While we appreciate your commitment, we also believe that maintaining a healthy work-life balance is crucial for both your well-being and long-term professional success. We encourage you to adhere to regular working hours and take regular breaks." Infosys clarified that the initiative is not punitive but rather a wellness-oriented move to foster sustainable productivity.

Sources said that the company was tracking working hours to ensure employees are not silently burning out. This was part of our larger focus on employee health as the company wants to ensure that teams are thriving—not just surviving under deadlines.

This approach has earned praise from several employees who say the company's actions reflect empathy and foresight. "This kind of email reminds us to pause and breathe," a project analyst with the firm. "We often get caught up in sprints and back-to-back meetings. It's easy to forget to log off. The nudge from HR made me rethink how I manage my time." Others echoed similar sentiments, particularly amid increasing discussions in the corporate world where influential industry figures have recently called for 70-hour work weeks to boost economic productivity. "I'm glad my company is saying 'don't overdo it' instead of glorifying burnout," said a software developer. "The subtle message is that working smart matters more than just working long."

However, not everyone is convinced the email initiative addresses the root of the issue. Some employees argue that the pressure to overdeliver stems not from lack of awareness, but from workload expectations.

"It's great to get a reminder, but unless project timelines and team sizes are also adjusted, this won't work in reality," said a mid-level team lead who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Emails won't reduce working hours. They just make us more aware of how much we're stretching ourselves."

Industry analysts say Infosys's move stands out in the current climate, especially as younger professionals prioritise mental health, flexibility, and balance over rigid hierarchies and outdated definitions of commitment. While the debate rages on nationally, this stance seems to be an attempt to lead by example, highlighting that productivity and well-being don't have to be mutually exclusive.

IN BRIEF

Peace meet held in Dakshina Kannada district

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday chaired a peace meeting here with religious and community leaders from Dakshina Kannada district, assuring them that the state government would take stringent steps against hate speech, misinformation, and communal unrest.

He assured the leaders that a new law targeting hate speech and fake news would be introduced in the next Assembly session. "We are contemplating a legal framework to curb divisive narratives, especially those circulated online and in public forums," the minister stated.

The minister clarified that the gathering was not convened to label the region, but to seek suggestions on maintaining communal harmony in the coastal district.

"There is no district like Dakshina Kannada in the state. It has historically contributed to India's banking and education sectors and produced globally competent professionals," he said.

Parameshwara recalled his childhood days as an athlete at Nehru Maidan, stating that the district was once free from religious divides. "Our children should not grow up in fear. The government is determined to uphold peace," he added. Referring to concerns over drug abuse, he said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had already declared an all-out war on narcotics. "We will not let Dakshina Kannada become another Punjab," Parameshwara said. The minister directed senior police officials to act firmly against those disturbing the peace and promised programmes to promote amity. **–PTI**

Woman gang-raped, robbed at friend's house; 4 held

The Parappana Agrahara police on Wednesday arrested four men for allegedly gang-raping a 34-year-old woman at her male friend's house near Sai Layout, Doddangamangala, on Monday night.

The accused have been identified as Raghu alias Appu (23), Kenchegowda (26), Madesha (27), and Shashikumar (24).

According to police, the survivor had visited her friend Nagesh's house when Raghu, reportedly known to Nagesh, arrived with three others. The group allegedly barged in, threatened and assaulted both occupants, before taking turns to sexually assault the woman.

The accused then forced the duo to transfer money through an online gaming platform, Rs 12,000 from the survivor and Rs 8,000 from her friend. Before fleeing, the gang called a mini goods vehicle and looted several household items, including a TV, refrigerator, washing machine, and two mobile phones. Police arrested the accused based on CCTV footage and technical evidence. **–BMB**

Radicalisation: 3 handed over to NIA

The Special NIA Court in Bengaluru on Wednesday handed over the custody of three arrested accused persons in a prison radicalisation case to the custody of the National Investigation Agency for six days.

The accused Anees Fathima, Chan Pasha and Dr Nagaraj S. were produced before the court today by a team headed by Dy SP Susheela. The judge passed the order handing over the custody of the accused to the NIA till July 14.

The NIA on Tuesday had arrested these three persons, including a prison psychiatrist and a City Armed Reserve (CAT) policeman, following extensive searches in two districts of Karnataka in the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror group's prison radicalisation case of 2023.

Woman pretends to be posh to pull off ₹90-lakh fraud

A woman, who posed as a well-connected socialite with international investments, has been arrested by Basaveshwara Nagar Police for allegedly cheating another woman of 90 lakh through a financial scam.

The accused, Savita, allegedly lured wealthy women by hosting lavish kitty parties, flaunting a luxurious lifestyle, and claiming ties with influential political figures. Police said she gained the trust of her victims with stories of high returns from investments in Dubai and the US, including gold offered at low rates and money-doubling schemes.

The complainant claimed that Savita convinced her of lucrative trading and investment opportunities abroad. Trusting her flashy claims and so-called connections, the victim reportedly transferred 90 lakh.

Savita was arrested along with her associate, Puneet. Two more accused in the case are currently absconding, police confirmed. Authorities also revealed that Savita had previously been booked by Govindarajanagar Police in a similar fraud case but had resumed her con operations after being released.

"She used fake promises, name-dropping, and a fabricated image of wealth to run a full-fledged scam," said police officials.

CHEAT SHEET

Flats sold, loans taken without owner's knowledge

A Bengalurean was stunned to discover that his flats had been sold, massive loans secured, and bank accounts opened all without his knowledge. The alleged mastermind? A trusted real estate agent who turned rogue, aided by a web of accomplices including bank officials and sub-registrars. A complaint has been filed by the resident of a Shrine Apartment in KB Sandra, who alleged that 12 individuals, including a real estate agent and government officials, conspired to illegally sell his flats and siphon off loans amounting to 1.9 crore.

The victim explained, "I was kept in the dark for the last seven months by DGM MD Anwar, who told me there are seven fraud cases against Anurag and that they were close to arresting him. He assured me that once caught, I would either get my money or the flat back. The loan and fraud took place in July last year, but I only found out about it in February this year."

According to the complaint, three flats Flat No. 1, Flat No. 203 (1400 sq ft), and Flat No. 306 (1540 sq ft) were vacant and under the complainant's ownership. Anurag, a real estate agent, who approached the complainant with an offer to help sell the flats, allegedly misused documents entrusted to him by the complainant's personal assistant, Surya.

The accused reportedly obtained photocopies of property registration papers, Aadhaar card, and PAN card, and then forged the complainant's signature. With the help of officials at the Ganganagar and Byatarayanapura sub-registrar offices, the accused impersonated the complainant and fraudulently executed the sale of two flats to individuals identified as Hemanth Kumar and Vishnu B.

Further investigation revealed that Anurag opened bank accounts in the complainant's name in the Bank of Maharashtra and Arjun Souharda Pattina Sahakari Cooperative Society. Using forged property documents, the accused allegedly secured loans totalling 1.9 crore. The funds were then transferred from the fake accounts into Anurag's personal account.

The complaint names Anurag, Surya, and several others as co-conspirators, including Anistofie, Raghavendra, Manjanna, Hemanth Kumar, Vishnu, and even bank and registrar office officials.

Each special task force will have 2 members from NGOs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Superintendents of Police of districts will be chairmen of the special task forces at the district level. Each special task force will have 10 members from various departments and two members from non-governmental organisations. The district child protection officer will be the member secretary of the special task force.

As per the cirular, the special task force should meet every month to review the progress of child abduction and missing children cases. The district child protection officers have to submit mandatory reports to the Directorate of Child Protection by the end of every month. The special task force can invite parents of missing children to the meetings and counsel them. Efforts should be made to create awareness at the district level, in association with NGOs, on child trafficking, missing children.

Wholeheartedly welcoming the initiative, Nagasimha G Rao, a child rights activist, said the inclusion of members from two non-governmental organisations in the task force established in every district is truly a commendable step. "The statistics on missing children are alarming: according to the NCRB 2022 report, over 83,000 children went missing across India, with 71 per cent being girls. In Karnataka alone, approximately 3,000 cases were reported in 2022. Between 2018 and 2023, India recorded 2,75,125 missing children, including 2,12,825 girls and 62,237 boys; of these, 2,40,502 have been traced, while 34,623 remain missing," Rao said.

He said that contributing factors for missing children include child trafficking, poverty, urbanisation, and parental neglect. "It is hoped that the newly formed task force will take swift action, establish a database, raise awareness, and work towards rehabilitation. There is an urgent need for the community and parents to join hands with the government to trace missing children," he said.

Dr Thippeswamy KT, member, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, also welcomed the decision. He said that it is necessary to protect vulnerable children. "The decision to form the special task force at the district level is a constructive measure. The special task force has to work in coordination with other departments to find missing children," he said.

Advising the authorities to ensure the special task force committees work effectively for the welfare of vulnerable children, HC Raghavendra, a child rights activist, said the proposed special task force committees should not become like the anti-human trafficking committees. "The anti-human trafficking committees were formed with much fanfare but they have become defunct," said Raghavendra.

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I, SYED ZUHAIR ABBAS s/o SYED TAQI HASSAN Residing at 202 I K Main Road Alipura Chikkaballapur Karnataka 561213 do hereby declare that my name is currently shown as Given Name: SYED ZUHAIR ABBAS I wish to separate my Given Name and Surname to be officially recorded as Given Name: SYED ZUHAIR Surname: ABBAS for all future purposes.

I, RAVI KAPALE , Flat No 304 Royal Woods Apartment, 11/4, 6th E Main, Gaurav Nagar, Chunchagatta Road, Behind Bridge Gardenia Appt JP Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078, Have changed my name to RAVI KAPALI, vide affidavit dated 09/07/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, SAPNA, R/a.#65,Shivaji Road, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560051. I, have Changed my name to SAPNA PRAVESH DEVDA, Vide affidavit, dated 08/07/2025 Sworn before notary Meer Hussain Bangalore

I, Swati Kumari Bakliwal, W/o. Jyoti Jain, R/o. #5, 2nd Flr, Near Shiva Temple, 2nd Cross, Mission Road, SR Nagar, Blr- 560027, have changed my name to SWATI BAKLIWAL vide affidavit Dtd: 26/06/25 before Notary M. Rajendra, Blr.

I, Chidananda Kirugunda Annegowda s/o Anne gowda Kirugunda Siddappa R/o Kirugunda post, Mudigere Tq, Chikkamagaluru 577132 present camp Bengaluru have changed my name to Chidananda Patel. Affidavit Dt.09/07/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Krishan Prakash, S/o Late Mohan Prakash Kaushik, R/o No. T1, Royal Nest Apartment, 4th 'A' Cross, Abbaiah Reddy Layout, Kaggadasapura, C. V. Raman Nagar Post, Bangalore, Karnataka-560093 have changed my name to Krishan Prakash Kaushik for all future purposes.

I, DEVESH MISRA, R/at Flat No. D502, Veracious Lansdale, near Forum, Neighbourhood Mall, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066, have changed my name to DEVESH MISHRA, vide affidavit dt: 09.07.2025, before notary B. Chitra, Bangalore.

I, Kailkere Kishor Kumar Hegde S/o Kailkere Srinivasa Hegde R/o Srinivasa,1st Stage,1st Main,3rd Cross,, Kalyana Nagara,Cuda Layout, Chikkamagaluru, 577102,Ka have changed my name to Kailkere Kishore Kumar Hegde

I, Christeena Vemu w/o Suhas Roshan Talari R/o Flat.B073 Sobha magnolia Apt, Bannerghatta Rd DRC po, B'luru 560029 have changed my name to christina Talari Affidavit Dt.09/07/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, PRAVESH LALCHAND, R/a #65,Shivaji Road, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-51. I, have changed my name to PRAVESH LALCHAND DEVDA, Vide affidavit, dated 08/07/2025 Sworn before Notary: Meer Hussain. Bangalore

I, ANISHA U BHANSALI , No 23, Jain Temple Street, V.V. Puram, Bengaluru-560004, Have changed my name to ANISHA JAIN, vide affidavit dated 09/07/2025 sworn before Notary L. Shankaranarayana Bangalore

I Manoj Kumar Majhi, Flat No 301 Sri Lakshmi venkateswara nilayam Prasanthi nikethan layout, hoodi, bengaluru, 560048, have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Majhi

I, Chaithanya D/o S Raja , #164, 2nd cross Jambu Savari Dinne JP Nagar 8th phase Bangalore - 560076, have changed my name to Chaithanya.R for all purposes.

I, RUMANA TASNEEM NASIR HUSSAIN, R/a .#S1,2nd Flr,Taj Residency,8th Main,Pillana Garden 3rd Stage Bengaluru 45. I have Changed my name to RUMANA TASNEEM, Vide affidavit, dated 07/07/2025 Sworn before Notary: Meer Hussain. Bangalore

I YOGESH GANGUR RANGEGOWDA R/o Bommanahalli Village, Belluru Hobli, Nagamangala Tq, Mandya 571448 have changed my name to YOGESHA GANGUR RANGEGOWDA. I shall be called by this name for all purpose

I, PREKSHA BHANDARI, No 23, Jinkushal Apartment, Govindappa road, Basavangudi, Bengaluru-560004, Have changed my name to PREKSHA OSTWAL, vide affidavit dated 09/07/2025 sworn before Notary L. Shankaranarayana Bangalore

I, MYDHILI DEEPALA, Flat No C602, Ajmera Green Acres, Bannerghatta Road, Kalena Agrahara, Bangalore-560076, Have changed my name to MYTHILI DEEPALA, vide affidavit dated 09/07/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Kavitha Dandamudi D/o Venkateswara Rao Vemuri R/o 303, Sri Krishna Nest Apt, Ramagondanahalli, Whitefield Main Rd, 7th Cross, R Narayanapura, B'luru 560066 have changed my name to Kavitha Vemuri. Affidavit Dt.09/07/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Deva Narayan Raju S/o Sreeja S Raj R/o #686, Manjunatha Nilayam, 13th Main, 5th Cross, Viratnagar B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Vihaan S R for all purposes.

I, Jaspreet Singh S/O, Surendra Singh Saluja R/o C 57, Purva Parkridge, Goshala Rd,Garudacharpalya, Maha - devpura, B'luru, 560048 have changed my name to Jaspreet Singh Saluja for all purposes.

I, Salhat Khan Resident NO 23, 1st Cross, P & T Colony, R T Nagar, Bengaluru-560032 changed my name from Salhat Khan. K S (K S full form is Kolar Suleman) to Salhat Khan for all further purposes.

I, Bharthamma Thimmareddy W/o Srinivasa Reddy Panathur Krishnareddy R/o No 45,1st Cross,Kaverappa Layout,Panathur,B'luru 560103 have changed my name to Bharathamma Thimmareddy.

I, Sunitha Chidhambara Raman, w/o Chidhambara Raman, R/o No-36 Bhargavi Nilaya Siddappa Reddy Layout Devasandra K.R Puram B'luru-560036 have changed my name to Sunitha S for all Purposes.

I ZARINA TAJ W/o J Babu R/o No 12/12 8th Main 5th Cross Shamanna NagarBangalore 560026 have changed my name to ZAREENA TAJ for all Purposes

I, Shruti Sharma, R/o 310, 3rd Flr, Kumari Woods and Winds, Channasandra, Bengaluru-560067 have changed my name to Shruti Jagdeesh Sharma

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BHUTAN 8 DAYS SEPT: 23 OCT: 8, 18, 25
NEPAL WITH MUKTINATH 8 DAYS SEPT: 9, 23 OCT: 7, 21 NOV: 4
MALAYSIA SINGAPORE/THAILAND* 7/11* DAYS AUG: 2, SEPT: 10
BANGKOK PATTAYA 5 DAYS AUG: 8, SEPT: 16
DUBAI 5 DAYS SEPT: 25
VIETNAM 8 DAYS AUG: 18
BALI (INDONESIA) AUG: 27
SRI LANKA 7 DAYS AUG: 28, SEPT: 10, 20 OCT: 5, 15, 25

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'The world doesn't revolve around us'

Fatima Sana Shaikh explains how she manages to zoom out in the face of social media frenzy

Social media frenzy and trolling can give celebs sleepless nights. How do actors deal with this constant noise? Fatima Sana Shaikh, who will be seen in Anurag Basu's Metro In Dino next, addressed the issue while speaking to us.

She told Mumbai Mirror, "Things have become a lot more intense because of social media. Every move is dissected, zoomed in, maximised, commented on, and watched. I do not get affected by it anymore, but I used to. I was very soft. Now I don't get affected because I have realised that the world doesn't revolve around you. Say 50–100 people are talking about you — after some time, they will talk about other things. They are also thinking about themselves. This cycle is never-ending. You must get out of it. The more you pay attention to it, the more it will consume you, and it's a waste of time."

She added, "I'm affected by what's happening in the world. There are bigger things happening, like war and famine, and here we are crying that someone has commented on my clothes. A lot of people don't know or are not bothered about what's happening around the world. Makes me wonder if ignorance is bliss, because those who are socially aware are more affected. I feel it's important to be sensitive towards issues that need your attention. It's nice to feel things rather than not feel anything."

–Renuka Vyavahare, ETimes

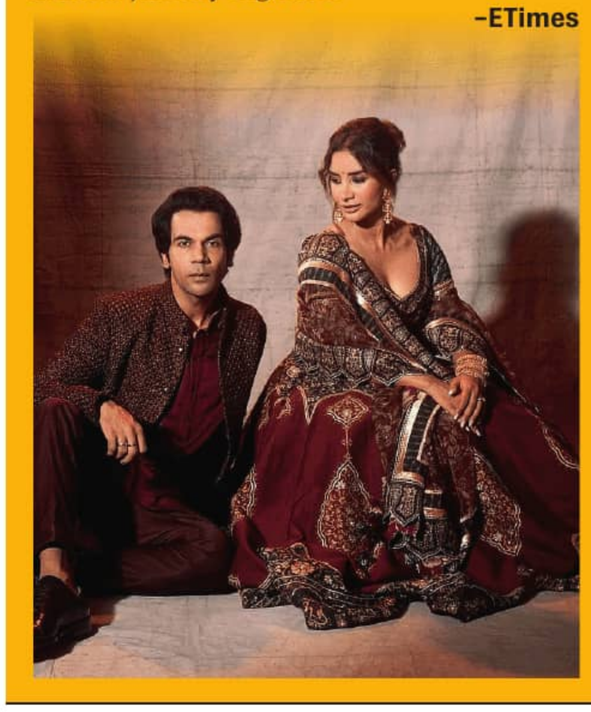
Baby on board

Bollywood's much-loved couple, Rajkummar Rao and Patralekhaa, are all set to embrace parenthood. The duo took to Instagram on Tuesday, July 9, to share the joyful news with their fans. The post features a minimal yet adorable illustration of a baby cradle surrounded by delicate floral motifs, with the words "Baby on the way" written above it. The image is signed with their names: Patralekhaa & Rajkummar.

The announcement quickly caught the attention of their friends and fans alike. Rajkummar simply captioned the post with "Elated ", while congratulatory messages poured in from across the industry. Celebrities like Huma Qureshi, Neha Dhupia, and Varun Dhawan were among the first to send their love and wishes in the comments.

Rajkummar and Patralekhaa, who tied the knot in an intimate ceremony in November 2021 after over a decade of dating, have often set relationship goals with their enduring bond and mutual admiration. This new chapter marks another beautiful milestone in their journey together.

–ETimes



Rhea reveals why she doesn't rely on external validation

Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty took to social media to reveal that she no longer seeks external validation to feel worthy. Emphasizing the importance of inner strength and self-love, Rhea posted a couple of her photos and videos, giving a glimpse of her favorite hobbies. The 'Chehre' actress simply captioned the post, "Favourite hobbies : Dancing Talking Directing a street shoot for @ chapter2drip."

Chakraborty also shared a video of herself accepting an award, where she mentioned in her speech that she isn't used to receiving so much external validation, as inner validation has always been her go-to. In the clip, Rhea stated, "I would like to say thank you. I am not used to so much external validation, inner validation has been my go-to but I can't get the charm of it." The 33-year-old actress also posted a video of herself dancing along with others, set to the popular Neha Kakkar and Badshah song "Garmi" as the background score.

A few days ago, the actress gave a sneak peek into one of her most memorable birthday celebrations, spent in the joyful company of her little friends. The 'Half Girlfriend 'actress shared a series of photos and videos from the celebration and wrote, "Best birthday spent with my best little friends Love and gratitude for these beautiful kids Heart is full."

–IANS

Sarah off politics on social media

Hollywood star Sarah Jessica Parker has revealed why she likes to keep away from talking about politics on social media because she believes there are more appropriate forums to discuss social issues.

During a recent appearance on "The Best People" podcast, the actress said: "I often don't talk on social media because I don't think it's a place that's deserving of any real complicated conversation."

She added: "I'm not interested in quick little snippets when it's dealing with conflict or even elections sometimes. I really was so thoughtful about how I wanted to talk about the election because I think it turns into a distraction from a campaign. It turns into fodder. It's misunderstood. You have no control over it."

Parker voiced that there are "so many ways" to motivate political change outside of posting online. She pointed out that politics went on for decades before the invention of social media and pulled an example from history, adding, "FDR was elected without social media."

Despite fans urging her to "be vocal" online, she feels more "comfortable" tackling social issues on her own terms, reports variety.com.

"I'm not going to talk about stuff that I don't feel educated on..."

–IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Kodagu chronicles

The audio of Eltu Muthaa was unveiled at a resort in Hubballi on Sunday. Veteran playback singer Sangeeta Katti, who completed 50 years as a playback singer, was felicitated by the team. Sri Kumara Virupaksha Swamiji, Kannada Film Producers Association president Umesh Banakar and prominent personalities of Hubballi were present on the occasion.

Eltu Muthaa is bankrolled by Satya S Srinivasan while R Surya has directed it. Shaurya Pratap, R Surya, and Priyanka Malali are the important cast in the movie. Prasanna Keshav has scored its music. Thanking the team for the felicitation, Katti said she is proud of music director Prasanna Keshav. "I am happy with the quality of the songs. Prasanna is known for hard work," she said.

Director Surya said the movie aims to introduce and create awareness about some people in Kodagu. "Initially, we made a teaser of the movie. The teaser made us select Shaurya Pratap to play the Muthaa. Satya Srinivas, after watching the teaser, joined hands with us. The movie was shot in Kodagu," said Surya.

A love story

The shooting of Venkateshaya Namaha is completed and the movie's team is busy with post-production works. The movie is billed as a mix of romance, humour, and sentiments. It is directed by Harish Raj and bankrolled by P Janardhan under the Lakshmi Janardhana Movies banner.

"The movie is about a young man who decides to get back at his lover after their break-up. The man decides to be friendly with more women. The lead character's name in the movie is Venky aka Venkatesha. The story is about whether or not the hero gets back with his lover," said director Harish Raj. Harish Raj also plays the lead in the movie. "The movie has all elements that are a must to entertain the audiences. It is an out-and-out comedy. I am sure audiences will go home happy after watching this movie at theaters," he said.

Producer P Janardhan said that the story of the movie is very good. "I decided to bankroll this movie when the director narrated the script to me. I thank all those who helped us" he said.

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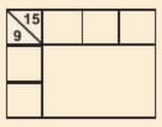
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

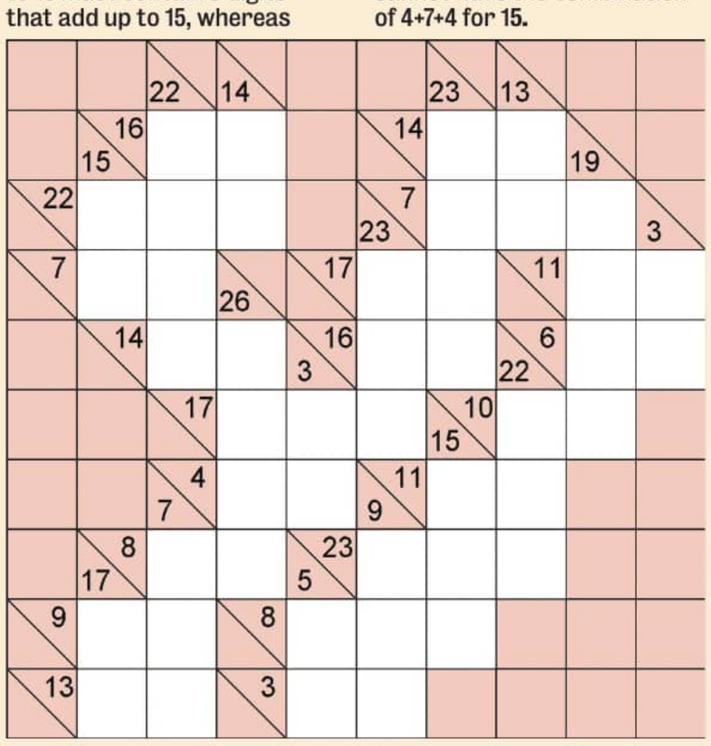
7- (-3) +10 (-10) – (-10) + 10 = ?

Kakuro

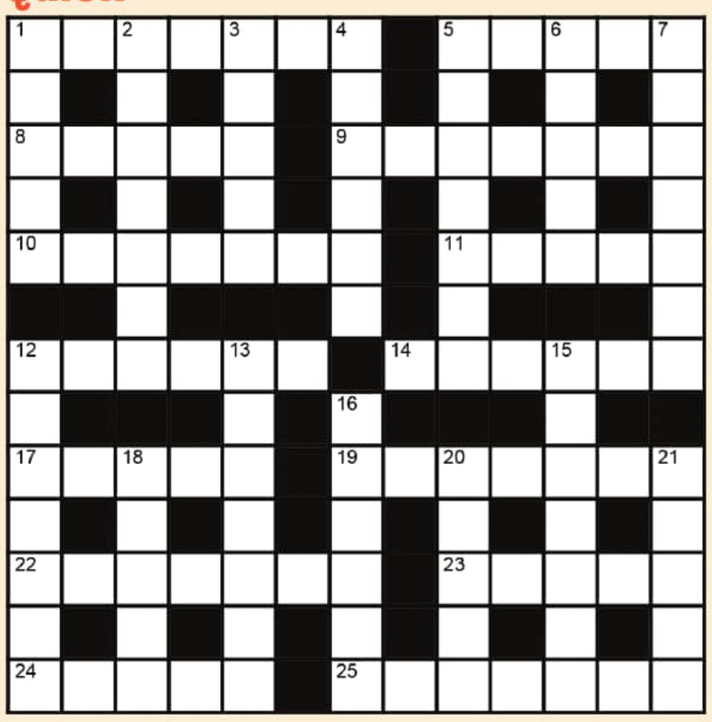
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Implicit meaning (7)
5 Had ___ : quarrelled? (5)
8 Impressionist painter Claude ___ (5)
9 Pastoral poem (7)
10 Including everybody (3,4)
11 Walk pompously (5)
12 Excessive, unjustified (6)
14 Scattered about (6)
17 Left-hand page (5)
19 Bowed and _____ : was obsequiously polite? (7)
22 Dawn (7)
23 Military body (5)
24 Cake topping (5)
25 Pig's foot (7)

DOWN

1 Brazilian dance (5)
2 Wrapped or tied together as a package (7)
3 Could __ __ fat : was on a lean diet? (3,2)
4 Fashions or crazes (6)
5 Firmly established (4,3)
6 Mr. Waters of Pink Floyd (5)
7 Add sugar to? (7)
12 Bangalore cinema home to India's first 4k screen (7)
13 Watching (7)
15 Take advantage of (7)
16 Point of view (6)
18 India's cricket trophy (5)
20 Proportion (5)
21 Illicit drugs user (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS G

JED KYXT RIY VEK HF NDIXXT LNDD HF JED KYD VEK BIY JPNY QKVY IY HYSHJIJHKY JK QHYYDN VHJEKPJ MHSHYM IY DOBPFD.

Linemaro

If your heart was a prison, I'd like to be sentenced for life

Mindchow

A thing is worth what it can do for you, not what you pay for it

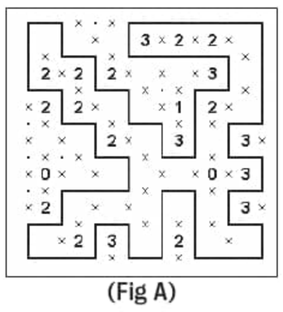
Joke of the day

Scientists tell us that the fastest animal on earth, with a top speed of 120 ft/sec, is a cow that has been dropped out of a helicopter

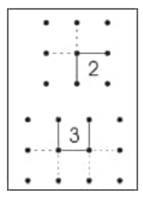
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

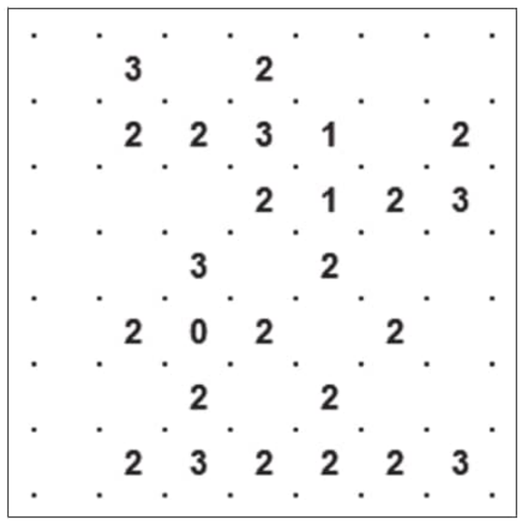


(Fig B) Not Allowed

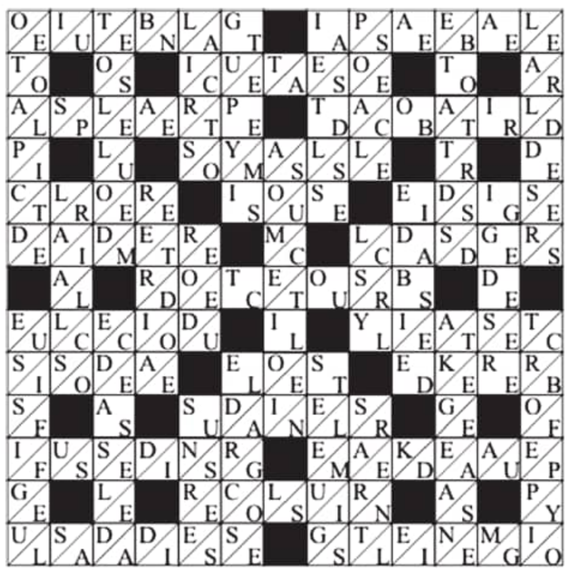
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



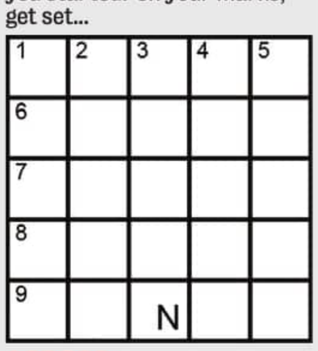
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

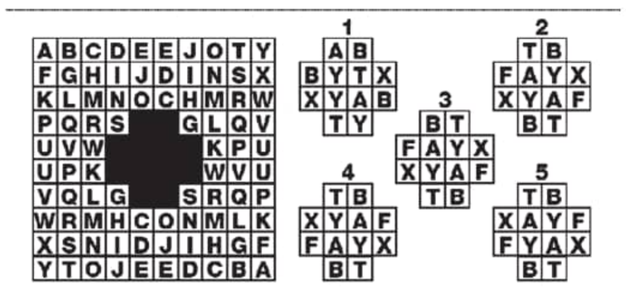
1 Lamps; 6 A glee; 7 Anils; 8 In tat; 9 Kinos

DOWN

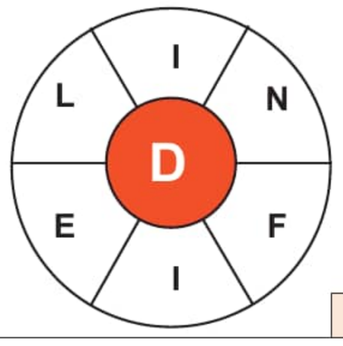
1 Poets; 2 Liana; 3 I Naga; 4 Links; 5 Smelt

Mensapuzzle

Which segment completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **12** Good; **14** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

5				2				9
		8				6		
4	6						1	7
6	3		9		8		4	5
			7		2			
8	7		4		6		2	1
2	5						9	6
		3				1		
9				4				3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 9

1 1 5 6

Medium

= 16

2 2 5 7

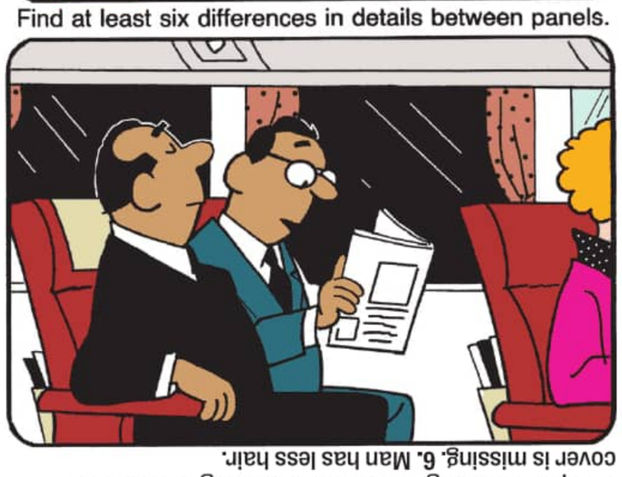
Hard

= 43

5 8 8 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



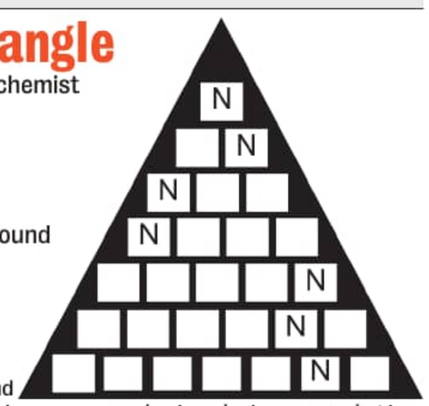
Differences: 1. Mouth is open. 2. Finger is moved. 3. Lapel is missing. 4. Curtain is missing. 5. Headrest cover is missing. 6. Man has less hair.

Riddler

What do these sentences have in common?
1) Perfect opinions use no deadlines.
2) Doctors originally lose love around royalty.
3) Yellow engines nominate. The initial letters of each word combines to form a currency

Alpha triangle

1 Nitrogen for the chemist
2 Not out
3 Zilch
4 Egypt's river
5 Fairy-like
6 Catty
7 An organic compound



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

THE PERFESSOR SURE IS MAD AT YOU!
IT'S HIS GUILTY CONSCIENCE!
SCIENTISTS KNOW WE WITCHES WERE FIRST WITH MAGIC!
YIKE! A SHOOT GUN?
TYPICAL SCIENTIFIC REACTION TO CRITICISM!
LET ME AT HER!
?
10-12
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It says you'll get the riches you deserve, but if you ask me, that's not positive news.
READING BETWEEN THE LEAVES
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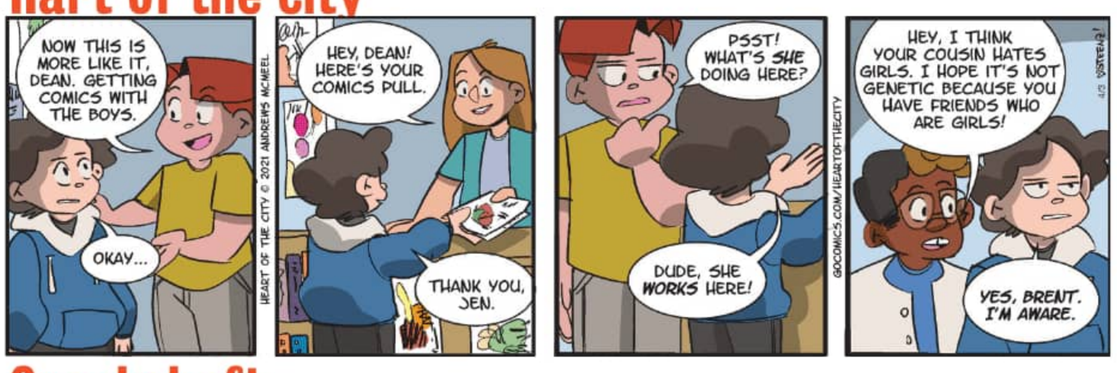
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE IT, DEAN. GETTING COMICS WITH THE BOYS.
OKAY...
HEY, DEAN! HERE'S YOUR COMICS PULL.
THANK YOU, JEN.
PSST! WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?
DUDE, SHE WORKS HERE!
HEY, I THINK YOUR COUSIN HATES GIRLS. I HOPE IT'S NOT GENETIC BECAUSE YOU HAVE FRIENDS WHO ARE GIRLS!
YES, BRENT. I'M AWARE.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2021 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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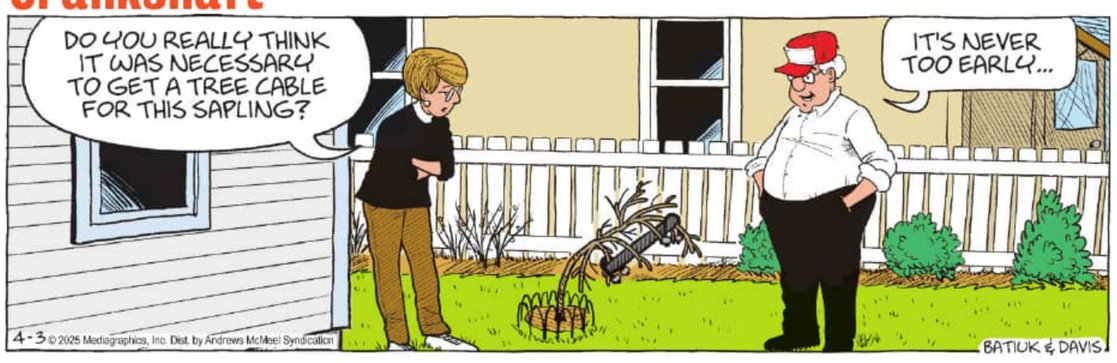
Crankshaft


DO YOU REALLY THINK IT WAS NECESSARY TO GET A TREE CABLE FOR THIS SAPLING?
IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY...
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BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

MEOW MEOW ME-OW
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT DOES SOUND LIKE A LOT OF GIBBERISH.
mutts.com www.kingfeatures.com
PATTY MARCH & PROJECT: INTERRED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
4-3

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be occupied with work-related matters. Your wisdom and decision-making skills will support business growth. A major order or opportunity might come your way, expanding your professional reach. You may also channel your creativity into renovating your home or office, which could enhance your social standing. Investments in artistic or creative assets may prove beneficial.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Things are stabilizing today. You may find yourself emerging from recent challenges with renewed patience and focus. A short outing or recreational break might be on the cards. Students will be more goal-oriented. Singles may meet someone special, possibly introduced by friends or relatives.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel emotionally unsettled today. Mood swings and impatience might affect your domestic peace. It's important to stay calm at work—arrogance could create hidden enemies. Avoid driving rashly and try to maintain a low profile to keep the day smooth.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Happiness surrounds you today. You'll experience harmony in personal life and share romantic moments with your spouse. Family members may support important decisions, both personally and professionally. New business ventures or partnerships could be in the pipeline.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
A positive lunar influence brings joy and balance. You'll display patience and perform well at work, possibly earning recognition or rewards. Health concerns within the family may resolve. Job seekers could land new roles, and lovebirds will enjoy quality time together.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Helping others may bring you personal satisfaction and elevate your societal image. You might implement innovative ideas at work, leading to business growth. A successful outcome in your efforts will bring happiness. Love birds may plan an outing or adventurous trip together.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may feel a bit withdrawn and confused about your responsibilities today. Hypothetical thinking could slow your progress, so it's advisable to stay grounded and practical. Take care of your parents' well-being and postpone any relocation or major decisions for now.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today brings enthusiasm and improved focus. Stalled projects may regain momentum. Support from siblings could help initiate a new venture with potential profits. Short family-related trips are likely. Job seekers may receive positive news about new opportunities.

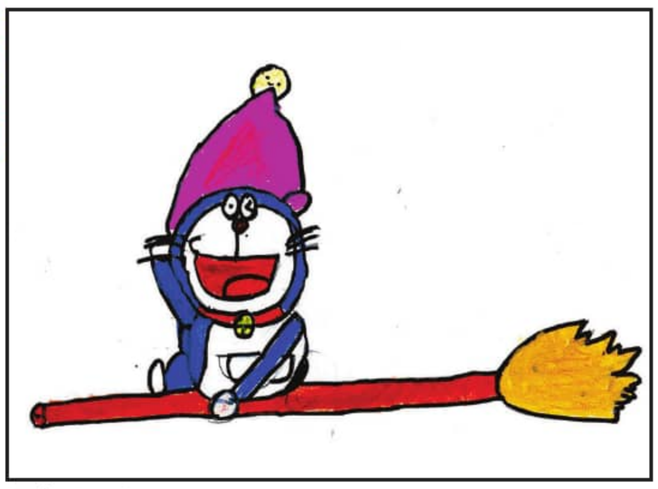
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You're likely to gain better control over unnecessary spending, improving your financial health. Creativity will shine—use it to upgrade your living or workspace, enhancing your image. Love birds might receive family support to strengthen their relationship. Students can expect positive academic results.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
The Moon blesses you with peace of mind today. Although work-related stress may arise, your inner calm will help you manage everything effectively. Enjoyable moments at work and home await. New sources of income may also appear, boosting your savings.

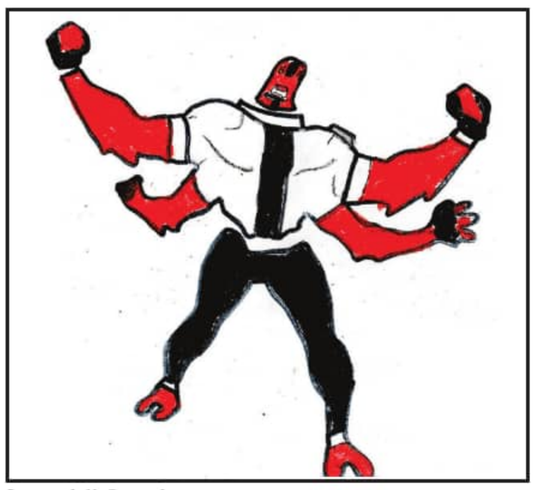
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You might feel low energy today. Recurring health issues could resurface, leading to fatigue and irritability. Arrogance may strain relationships at home. Financial caution is advised, as potential profits might turn into losses. Delay major transactions and focus on rest.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
A sense of inner strength may guide you today. Previous losses might turn into gains, boosting your business and financial liquidity. With the support of your team, you'll be able to make important business decisions. Your efforts may be recognized by superiors, possibly resulting in incentives or bonuses.

KIDZONE



Ateeba, Bengaluru



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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$7+3-100+10+10$
$= 10-100+10+10 = -90+10+10$
$= -80+10 = -70$

RIDDLER
1) P.O.U.N.D.
2) D.O.L.L.A.R. 3) Y.E.N.

QUOTE UNCODE
The only man who is really free is the one who can turn down an invitation to dinner without giving an excuse.

FAST FIVE

P	L	A	S	M
E	A	G	L	E
S	N	A	I	L
T	A	I	N	T
O	I	N	K	S

BULL'S EYE
dell, dine, fend, field, flend, filed, find, flned, fled, idle, INFIDEL, lend, lled, lined

STRIKE OUT

L	A	D	I	E	S	■	S	T	I	N	G	O	■	■
E	■	E	■	E	O	S	I	N	■	A	■	P	■	■
F	U	S	I	N	G	■	M	A	K	E	U	P	■	■
F	■	A	■	S	A	N	E	■	G	■	■	O	■	■
I	S	E	E	■	L	O	S	■	D	E	E	R	■	■
E	L	C	I	D	■	I	■	Y	E	A	S	T	■	■
■	A	■	R	E	C	T	O	R	S	■	E	■	■	■
E	I	D	E	R	■	C	■	C	A	S	E	R	■	■
T	R	E	■	S	U	■	E	D	G	E	■	■	■	■
I	■	L	■	S	M	A	L	L	■	R	■	D	■	■
L	P	L	A	T	E	■	T	A	B	A	R	D	■	■
O	■	O	■	C	E	A	S	E	■	O	■	A	■	■
O	U	T	B	A	T	■	I	S	A	B	E	L	■	■

QUICK

S	U	B	T	E	X	T	■	W	O	R	D	S	■	■
A	■	U	■	A	■	R	■	E	■	O	■	W	■	■
M	O	N	E	T	■	E	C	L	O	G	U	E	■	■
B	■	D	■	N	■	L	■	E	■	C	■	E	■	■
A	L	L	T	O	L	D	■	S	T	R	U	T	■	■
■	■	E	■	■	S	■	■	E	■	■	■	E	■	■
U	N	D	U	L	Y	■	S	T	R	E	W	N	■	■
R	■	■	O	■	A	■	■	X	■	■	■	■	■	■
V	E	R	S	O	■	S	C	R	A	P	E	D	■	■
A	■	A	■	K	■	P	■	T	R	O	O	P	■	■
S	U	N	R	I	S	E	■	T	R	O	O	P	■	■
H	■	J	■	N	■	C	■	I	■	I	■	E	■	■
I	C	I	N	G	■	T	R	O	T	T	E	R	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
4. Splitting the diagram in half horizontally and vertically, each quarter contains the alphabet written in sequence, with the relative position of this sequence rotating 1/4 turn anti-clockwise as you move clockwise around the quarters.

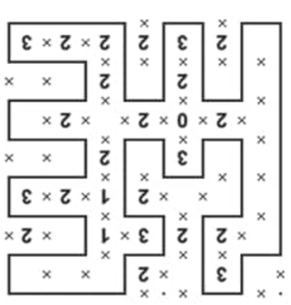
SUDOKU

5	1	7	6	2	4	8	3	9
3	2	8	1	9	7	6	5	4
4	6	9	3	8	5	2	1	7
6	3	2	9	1	8	7	4	5
1	9	4	7	5	2	3	6	8
8	7	5	4	3	6	9	2	1
2	5	1	8	7	3	4	9	6
7	4	3	5	6	9	1	8	2
9	8	6	2	4	1	5	7	3

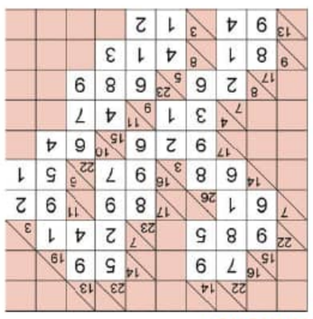
ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, In, Nil, Nile, Elfin, Feline, Olefine.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 6 − 1 − 1 = 9
Medium
2 + 5 + 7 + 2 = 16
Hard
8 x 7 − 8 − 5 = 43

LOOP



KAKURO



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ONWARDS & UPWARDS

Sara Arjun played Aish's daughter in 2015 film

Sara Arjun has been the talk of the town, since her alleged onscreen romantic linkup with Ranveer Singh in the upcoming spy thriller Dhurandhar. The first look of the film that dropped online, set tongues wagging about the 20-year age gap between the actress and her hunky co-star. Social media was filled with posts questioning their alleged on-screen pair-up, even though the debate sprang from mere speculation of her role in the film.

What made the casting choice even more interesting was that just a decade ago, Sara was cast as the daughter of Aishwarya Rai Bachchan in the 2015 crime thriller Jazbaa.

Back in Jazbaa, directed by Sanjay Gupta, Sara played Sanaya Verma, the young daughter of Aishwarya's character, Advocate Anuradha Verma. Despite being only around ten years old at the time, Sara delivered a standout performance, which eventually led her to be cast as a younger version of Aishwarya's character Nandini in Ponniyin Selvan.

Now, a decade later, Sara takes on a more mature role in Dhurandhar, opposite Ranveer. While some perceive it as a bold pairing as a ploy for a high-stakes espionage arc, others feel it's an unusual mismatch. **–ETimes**

Birthday bash

Padma Shri Kailash Kher celebrated his birthday with the 9th edition of Nayii Udaan at St. Andrew's Auditorium, Bandra — a musical tribute to Guru-Shishya Parampara, mentorship, and emerging talent. This soulful evening saw 10 exceptional voices — handpicked from 200+ entries via a nationwide digital talent hunt— perform live with mentor artists Amit Gupta, Priyani Vani Pandit, Abhas Joshi, Hriday Gattani, and Purusharth Jain, Vighnesh Pande all once inspired by Kailash Kher himself

Gen Z lingo not for Kajol

Bollywood star Kajol, who's a mother to 22-year-old daughter Nysa and 15-year-old son Yug, revealed that she doesn't even try to understand the quirky Gen-Z lingo and sometimes needs help when needed.

"I don't even try to understand Gen Z lingo. I'm satisfied with just speaking good English for that matter. Good Hindi, good English, good Marathi, I'm satisfied with that," Kajol told IANS, when asked how she keeps up with Gen-Z language.

But does she find Gen Z lingo confusing? Pat came the reply from Kajol: "I ask for help. I genuinely ask for help. If I need it, if I don't understand it, I say it. If I don't understand it, say it in normal language."

The actress, who is married to Ajay Devgn, started dating him while filming "Gundaraj" in 1994. The couple married in 1999 in a traditional Maharashtrian ceremony. She gave birth to her daughter in 2003. Seven years later, in 2010, she gave birth to a son, Yug. **–IANS**